

Female World War II Veteran, local Aurora Red Cross Volunteer, turns 95 years old on April 24, 2019

AURORA, N.C. — Ann Gardner Windley is a female Veteran who served in the Navy Nurse Corps during WWII. She is turning 95 on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

Mrs. Windley became aware of the attack on Pearl Harbor while studying as a nurse at the University of Georgia Junior College.

"Our teachers called us into the assembly and broadcast the news. We didn't have media the way you do now. They turned up the radio loud enough for us to hear President Roosevelt announce that we were going to war," she said. "We didn't know where Pearl Harbor was - we'd never heard of it. We didn't really know what it meant, except that all of us, our friends and of course our graduating class from high school – 1941 –we were right there. That was the age. Almost everyone I knew from high school went into the war."

She felt compelled to serve after seeing her brother and several friends being called to service. She served at Portsmouth General Naval Hospital the entire time she was in the military. She was on a general rotation, going from one ward to another wherever she was needed to help injured U.S. servicemembers. She also took care of patients on the POW wards.

She met her husband Daniel Windley at Portsmouth in 1946. He had served in the Marine corps and had been wounded in the Pacific and sent home.

Mrs. Windley volunteered with the local Red Cross for more than 60 years. She received a Presidential Volunteer Service Award and the Presidential Volunteer Pin for her dedication to supporting the Red Cross during emergencies and blood mobile activities.

The Durham VA has been proud to provide care to Mrs. Windley through our Greenville Health Care Center. To honor her the family will celebrate at the Windley home at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2019. The VA Greenville Health Care Center Director will visit the Veteran at her home and will present Mrs. Windley with her written history (part of the VA's living history project.)

Please see her attached full bio.

For more information please contact Yves-Marie Daley, Public Affairs Specialist, at 919-370-0040 (cell)